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REMARKS

In the Office Action dated March 31, 2003, the drawings are objected to. Claims 1, 4-6, 7-13, 15, 16 and 19-28 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b).

For the reasons set forth hereafter, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 1, 15 and 16, as well as the claims depending from claims 1 and 16, includes features which are not taught or anticipated by the cited references. Reconsideration is, therefore, respectfully requested.

In this communication, Applicants' submit replacement pages with corrections to Figs. 5, 7, 9, and 10 which adopt the Examiner's suggestion for crosshatching showing plastic filled with conductive particles for the housing 12 and the tube layer 39.

Claims 1, 4-6, 10-13 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Hand. The Examiner contends that Hand discloses all of the features of Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 1 and 15 as well as claims 4-6 and 10-13 which depend from claim 1.

However, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has misinterpreted the teachings of Hand. Although the Examiner contends that Hand shows the arm extendable through an open end of the bore in the male endform, it is submitted that Figure 1 of Hand clearly shows that the arm does not extend through the open end of a bore in the male endform, but rather, is positioned exteriorly of the external surface of the male endform. This is required by the operation of Hand in which the spikes on the end of the arm are positioned to move radially inward to pierce through the outer sheet or plastic layer or surface of the male endform.

Hand is completely devoid of any teaching or suggestion of forming the arms on the contact to extend through the open end of the bore in the endform into contact with an inner surface of the endform. The only teaching for this construction would result from the impermissible use of hindsight reconstruction employing Applicants' invention as a basis for such an interpretation if Hand.

As shown in Fig. 2 of Hand, the arms on the ring extend, in a pre-assembly position, angularly outward at an obtuse angle with respect to the ring. The arms are bent inward when the ring is inserted into the bore in the housing. The outer housing moves the arms and forces the spikes on the ends of the arms through the

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exterior surface of the endform into contact with an innerconductive layer of the endform.

Reversing the position of the arms of the ring of Hand so that the arms extend through the open end of the bore in the endform renders Hand inoperative as there would be no structure of Hand capable of providing sufficient force to drive the spikes on the ends of the arms through an inner surface of Hand. The biasing force inherent in the bent spring arms would be insufficient to drive the spikes into the end form. It is noted that Hand specifically teaches piercing of the surface of the endform to establish electrical contact between the ring and the endform. Merely disposing the end of the arm in contact with a surface of the endform is beyond the teachings and suggestions of Hand.

The Examiner contends that the arm of Hand could be bent to extend into the bore. However, as noted above, this would render the ring of Hand inoperable in establishing an electrical contact as there is not structure to force the spikes on the end of the arm through an inner surface of the endform as specifically taught and required by Hand.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 1 and 15, as well as claims 4-6 and 10-13 depending from claim 1, includes features which are not taught, anticipated or even suggested by Hand.

With respect to claims 5 and 6, the Examiner contends that Hand teaches the arm and the bent end 19 as comprising a beam portion 18, a back taper surface 18 and a tip end 19. However, it is submitted that Hand is devoid of any teaching or suggestion of providing a back taper surface extending angularly from the beam portion. The entire arm of Hand is a linear beam. Only the spike 19 at the end of the arm projects angularly from the arm. Thus, Hand is devoid of any back taper surface extending angularly from the beam portion to a tip end.

For this reason, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 5 and 6 patentably defines over Hand in its own right, in addition to the dependency of claims 5 and 6 from claim 1.

Claims 1 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson.

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The Examiner contends that Johnson teaches all of the features of Applicants' invention as set forth in claim 1, as well as claims 7-9 which depend therefrom.

However, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has misinterpreted the structure of Johnson. In Johnson, the arm 48 of the contact 40 extends inwardly into a bore in a printed circuit board in electrical contact with an electrical conductor 36 which is continuous within the bore. The arm of the contact and the aperture in the printed circuit board are configured for receiving a male pin 62, with the arm functioning to compensate for any misalignment of the pin with respect to the longitudinal axis of the bore in the printed circuit board.

Thus, Johnson is devoid of any teaching of positioning the arm 48 to extend through an open end of a bore in the male pin into electrical contact with an inner surface of the male pin. In all aspects of Johnson, the pin is without an internal bore. Thus, Johnson specifically teaches only the electrical contact of the arm with an external surface of the pin.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in claim 1, as well as claims 7-9 which depend therefrom, includes features which are not taught, anticipated or even suggested by Johnson.

Claims 16 and 19-28 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson. The Examiner contends the Johnson teaches all of the elements of Applicants' invention as set forth in claim 16, and claims 19-28 which depend therefrom.

The arguments presented above with respect to claim 1 are repeated and applied to the rejection of claims 16 and 19-22.

It is submitted that Johnson is devoid of any teaching of establishing electrical contact between one end of a contact arm adapted to extend through an open end of a bore extending through the male endform into contact with an inner surface of the endform as set forth by the Applicants' in claim 16.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 16 and 19-28 includes features which are not taught, anticipated or even suggested by Johnson.

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In conclusion, for the reasons set forth above it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in independent claims 1, 15 and 16, as well as the claims depending respectively from claims 1 and 16, includes features which are not taught or anticipated by the cited references, taken singly by the Examiner. Thus, it is submitted that claims 1, 4-13, 15, 16, and 19-28 are in condition for allowance; a notice of which is respectfully requested.

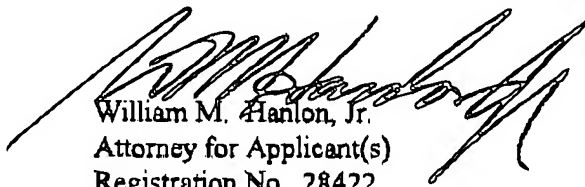
Entry of this amendment under the provisions of Rule 37 CFR 1.116 is submitted to be warranted and is respectfully requested. By this amendment, only cosmetic amendments have been made to claims 1, 15 and 16 to clarify the description of the features of Applicants' invention. It is submitted that these amendments do not raise new issues as it is clear from the Examiner's remarks in the current Office Action that the Examiner understands the invention. Further, the claim amendments merely reword the features of Applicants' invention without adding new features. This amendment also places all of the claims in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, this amendment is submitted to meet the requirements of Rule 37 CFR 1.116 for entry of an amendment after a "final" Office Action.

In the event that the Examiner, after considering this amendment, remains of the opinion that at least certain of the claims are not allowable, he is invited to contact Applicants' attorney to discuss potential further amendments to the claims to place the claims in allowable condition.

Respectfully submitted,

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